

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1990

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4921

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: NEW CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED

1. ON JULY 21 MRS. PERON OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATIONS OF ECONOMY MIN CELESTINO RODRIGO, SOCIAL WELFARE MIN CARLOS ALEJANDRO VILLONE AND PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY JOSE MARIA VILLONE.

2. FOLLOWING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATIONS, RODOLFO A. ROBALLOS, A LONG-TIME CAREER EMPLOYEE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY, WAS SWORN IN AS THE NEW SOCIAL WELFARE MIN. JOSE J. STUPENENGO, A FORMER TELEVISION NEWSMAN, WAS SWORN IN AS PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY. PEDRO J. BONANNI, WHO WAS SECRETARY OF HACIENDA FROM 1952 TO 1955, WAS SWORN IN TODAY AS THE NEW ECONOMY MINISTRY.

3. THE NEW MINISTERS WERE NOT ON ANYONE'S LIST OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW CABINET, AND THE IMMEDIATE REACTION OF EMBASSY'S LABOR AND POLITICAL SOURCES WAS STRONGLY NEGATIVE. NONE OF OUR SOURCES THOUGHT PERSONS NAMED HAD EITHER POLITICAL HISTORIES OR STRONG ENOUGH PERSONALITIES TO SEE COUNTRY THROUGH THE PRESENT CRISIS.

4. LA NACION OF JULY 22 CARRIES STORY GIVING FONMIN VIGNES CREDIT FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW SOCIAL WELFARE
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MIN. EMBASSY POLITICAL SOURCES CONFIRM THIS ACCOUNT

AND ADD THAT VIGNES' INFLUENCE ON MRS. PERON HAS GROWN
IN LAST TWO DAYS DESPITE RISING PUBLIC CRITICISM
AGAINST THE FONMIM.

5. COMMENT: THE NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS HAVE FAILED
TO COOL POLITICAL PASSIONS. MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS
BELIEVE NEW APPOINTMENTS ATTEMPT TO BUY TIME RATHER
THAN END POLITICAL CRISIS.
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